



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 29 March 2004

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



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www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The Associated Press reports that a fiery tanker truck crash that melted a bridge and closed a mile-long stretch of interstate between New York and Boston Thursday will likely snarl traffic for weeks. (See item [11](#))
- The Washington Times reports that Hamas invested millions of dollars during the past decade in real-estate projects nationwide as part of a scheme to raise cash to fund acts of terrorism. (See item [27](#))
- The Associated Press reports that FBI Director Robert Mueller said Thursday that terrorists could attempt to influence the U.S. election and shock the world by launching attacks during this year's presidential nominating conventions or at the Olympics in Greece. (See item [28](#))

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *March 26, Port Clinton News Herald (OH)* — Davis-Besse restarted following valve repairs. Workers at Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station in Oak Harbor, OH, restarted the reactor on Friday, March 26, and the facility might reconnect to the regional power grid over the weekend. Davis-Besse stopped producing electricity March 17 after problems were discovered with three valves. The valve malfunctions were found during a turbine

generator test, FirstEnergy spokesperosn Richard Wilkins said, and repairs are now completed. Operators plan to continue to increase power while monitoring equipment and personnel performance. "We don't see any emerging issues. This weekend looks good," he said. Earlier this month, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission granted Davis–Besse permission to restart for the first time since February 2002.

Source: <http://www.portclintonnewsheald.com/news/stories/20040326/localnews/153844.html>

2. *March 25, Associated Press* — **Nuclear waste casks not vulnerable according to NRC. The containers for carrying radioactive waste to the planned Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository in Nevada would survive a September 11 style airliner attack, the head of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) said Thursday, March 25.** NRC Chairman Nils Diaz told a House subcommittee that officials concluded that after running classified tests. **The potential danger of transporting nuclear waste across the nation's roads and railways has been a key argument made by opponents of the Yucca Mountain project.** "Our present findings are that a transportation cask that's been certified by the NRC ... would actually resist the impact of a large aircraft without releasing radioactivity to the public," Diaz said, responding to a question from subcommittee Chairman Rep. Ralph Hall. Diaz also said the casks would survive being stuck inside a burning train trapped in a tunnel — as happened in a Baltimore rail tunnel in 2001 — without a significant release of radioactivity. Nevada is challenging the project in federal court.

Source: <http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/news/politics/8276362.htm>

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Chemical Sector

3. *March 26, Mobile Register (AL)* — **Ammonia leaks at chemical plant. At least 100 pounds of gaseous ammonia were accidentally released from a chemical reactor tank at Degussa Corp.'s chemical plant in Theodore, AL, Thursday, March 25, Degussa officials said.** "We're still trying to calculate a better estimate of how much was released," said Keith Jones, Degussa spokesperson. The ammonia is thought to have dissipated quickly, he said. No injuries to employees or nearby residents were reported, Jones said. The Degussa plant uses ammonia to produce aminopropyltriethoxysilane — a binding agent used in the fiberglass industry, Jones said. **A gasket on one of the plant's tanks malfunctioned during routine operations**, he said. Engineers were trying Thursday to determine the reason for that malfunction, he said. The tank that leaked is a reactor tank in which ammonia is mixed with one or more other chemicals to create compounds, he said. Jones said plant operators are "confident" that the plant's automatic sprinkler system prevented any of the gas from entering Mobile Bay, which sits nearby the plant.

Source: <http://www.al.com/news/mobileregister/index.ssf?/base/news/108029620472190.xml>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

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March 26, New York Times — **Up to 2,000 Marines to go to Afghanistan from Gulf.** As many as 2,000 marines now aboard ships in the Persian Gulf will be sent to Afghanistan in the coming weeks to reinforce the American-led operation there to combat fighters of al Qaeda and the Taliban, Pentagon officials said Thursday, March 25. The United States now has about 13,000 troops in Afghanistan, including 2,000 marines. The additional marines — about 2,000 to 2,200 are now aboard three ships in the gulf — would add significant reinforcements at a pivotal moment in the running battle along the Afghan-Pakistani border. Gen. John P. Abizaid, the head of the military's Central Command, and his top lieutenants in Afghanistan had been planning a major spring offensive against al Qaeda and Taliban fighters along that frontier, and he has intended for months to use the additional marines, the senior Pentagon official said. **The additional marines would bring quick-reacting, self-sustaining firepower to the fight either along the mountain border area with Pakistan, where much of the current fighting is taking place, or in south and southeastern Afghanistan, where Taliban remnants are trying to undermine the fragile government of President Hamid Karzai.**

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/03/26/international/asia/26MILI.html?ex=1080882000&en=4f718afdb12e3dcf&ei=5062>

5. *March 25, Associated Press* — **Army: vehicle armor upgrade by summer. Responding to roadside attacks on military trucks and Humvees in Iraq, the Pentagon intends to provide reinforced glass and other protection for about 10,000 vehicles by the summer,** a spokesperson said Thursday, March 25. The military is making much of the protective equipment on its own, but has contracted out some of the work to speed the process, said Maj. Gary Tallman, a Pentagon spokesman for Army weapons and technology issues. The upgraded armor is designed to thwart snipers, homicide bombers and others who have attacked non-combat military vehicles. "In Iraq, you've got an unconventional enemy that targets combat support units," Tallman said. **The upgraded armor includes reinforced glass, thicker doors and floor boards that are more difficult to penetrate, but don't hinder the vehicles' speed and maneuverability.** The roadside attacks in Iraq had become so concerning that some units were customizing their own trucks and Humvees. Tallman said the Pentagon has been developing the upgraded armor since last fall, though individual units can still customize their own armor as long as those upgrades meet specifications.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,115265,00.html>

6. *March 25, Reuters* — **Key U.S. missile defense component delayed. A key part of a planned U.S. missile defense shield will cost more and take longer to field than currently scheduled, the Pentagon's top space planner told Congress on Thursday, March 25. The Space-Based Infrared System (SBIRS)-High system "is in a fluid situation right now," said Air Force Under Secretary Peter Teets,** the Department of Defense's executive agent for space. The SBIRS High system is meant to detect enemy missile attacks and collect a range of technical intelligence. It involves a network of four satellites in geosynchronous orbit and two in highly elliptical orbit. It was not immediately clear what effect a slip in the launch timetable would have on President Bush's plan to start fielding a layered missile defense by the end of this year. The initial goal is to defend against any incoming warheads from North Korea.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/rf/040325/arms_space_lockheed_1.html

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Banking and Finance Sector

7. *March 26, swissinfo* — **Money–laundering investigations rise 57%. Swiss authorities investigated 245 financial institutions last year as part of their efforts to crack down on money laundering.** However, experts still question the effectiveness of new measures which came into force last July. In a report issued on Friday, March 26, **the Money Laundering Control Authority said there was a 57 per cent increase in the number of institutions investigated last year. It said seven financial institutions were told to cease trading.** The report said it was a positive sign for Switzerland as a financial center that only a few operations had been closed down. In its annual report published on Thursday, March 25, the global anti–corruption watchdog, Transparency International, praised Switzerland's mechanisms for fighting money laundering. It said the Swiss system, which had been widely criticized in the past, should now serve as a model for other countries. However, Basel University's Mark Pieth, a former member of the Paris–based Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering, said it was still too early to judge the effectiveness of global anti–money laundering systems. "There's a lot of talk about it; there are a lot of rules and we're trying to create a level playing field," he said.

Source: <http://www.swissinfo.org/sen/Swissinfo.html?siteSect=111&sid=4822783>

8. *March 26, Associated Press* — **Bank robber leaves behind pipe bombs. A woman robbed a bank before leaving behind four pipe bombs in a briefcase and making her getaway in a Krispy Kreme Doughnuts delivery truck,** authorities said. The Citizens National Bank in Sevierville, TN, was evacuated Thursday, March 25, and a Knox County Sheriff's Office bomb unit used a remote robot to open the briefcase. The U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives was called in by Sevierville police to detonate the bombs. There were fewer than ten employees inside the bank and no customers, police said. No one was injured during the robbery. Sevierville is located about 20 miles southeast of Knoxville, TN.

Source: http://abcnews.go.com/wire/US/ap20040326_1135.html

9. *March 25, Times Record (AK)* — **Three arrested in ATM blast. Three Fort Smith, AK, men apparently tried to break into an ATM machine at First National Bank Wednesday, March 24, by blowing it up,** police said. The explosion caused extensive damage to the machine, but the money remained safely locked inside, Fort Smith police Sgt. Jarrard Copeland said. Police found that the lenses on all but one of the bank's security cameras near the machine had been covered with green paint. Police believe the men painted the lenses thinking they could avoid being caught on camera, but they missed one of the cameras, Copeland said. Police viewed images from that camera and discovered that **one of the men in the photos had been caught by the camera on two earlier visits to the machine that night. On the first visit the man used his ATM card to make a transaction -- allowing police to obtain his name and address.** Damage from the explosion is believed to be between \$50,000 and \$75,000, Copeland said.

Source: http://www.swtimes.com/archive/2004/March/25/news/atm_blast.html

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Transportation Sector

10. *March 29, Associated Press* — **U.S. Coast Guard issuing more fines as port security deadline nears. The U.S. Coast Guard has issued \$1.66 million in fines in the last two months, as it prepares to enforce a July 1 deadline for vessels and ports to meet new terrorism security requirements.** In a speech to the National Press Club in Washington D.C., Thursday, March 25, Admiral Thomas H. Collins, commandant of the Coast Guard, said 97 percent of all vessels and ports have submitted security assessments and plans as required. And those who haven't will be pursued by the Coast Guard. Ships, ports, ferry terminals and fuel-chemical tank farms were required to submit security plans by the end of last year, but because many did not comply the Coast Guard began assessing \$10,000 fines last month. According to Chief Petty Officer Paul Rhynard, 156 of the \$10,000 fines were levied, and violators were given 30 days to comply or face additional fines of up to \$25,000. Since the beginning of March, Rhynard said four \$25,000 fines have been assessed. Those who still don't have approved security plans in place could be shut down after July 1. Collins also said **Coast Guard operations are being hampered by deteriorating aircraft and ships, and it will take \$15 billion to \$17 billion over 20 years to repair and replace the failing helicopters and vessels.**

Source: http://www.heraldtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/2004_0325/APN/403251116

11. *March 28, Associated Press* — **Northbound lanes on wrecked part of I-95 to reopen.** Northbound lanes on a stretch of Interstate 95 were slated for reopening Sunday, March 28, three days after a fire that partially melted an overpass, Connecticut Gov. John G. Rowland said. The scheduled reopening of the more heavily damaged southbound lanes, meanwhile, was pushed up to April 1. **The overpass was damaged March 25 when a tanker truck carrying 12,000 gallons of home heating oil struck a barrier and erupted into flames.** Steel beams supporting the southbound lanes softened and sagged several feet, and the span holding the northbound lanes also was damaged. The damage shut down a one-mile stretch of the highway, which normally carries 120,000 vehicles a day between New York and Boston. **Full repairs could take up to a year and a half,** officials have said.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2004-03-28-bridge-conn_x.htm

12. *March 26, Associated Press* — **Train collision in Chicago injures twelve.** A locomotive bumped a commuter train carrying about 40 people outside a main downtown station Friday, March 26. At least 12 people were hurt, none seriously. The accident happened just after the morning rush hour, as the commuter train left the Ogilvie Transportation Center for the northwestern suburb of Crystal Lake, authorities said. **The locomotive was returning to the station when it apparently came off a side track that angles into the commuter train track and bumped the side of the outbound train,** said Rick Tidwell, Metra deputy executive director. All outbound traffic was halted from the station, formerly known as Northwestern Station.

Source: http://abcnews.go.com/wire/US/ap20040326_760.html

13. *March 26, Bloomberg* — **Continental Airlines raises fares second time in month. Continental Airlines Inc., which this month said higher jet fuel prices may wipe out operating profit this year, raised fares for the second time in a month to help cover rising fuel costs.** Continental, the fifth-largest carrier, led the industry in a similar fare boost last month only to rescind it when some carriers didn't match. Each \$1 rise in the price of crude oil

costs Continental \$38 million, Chief Executive Officer Gordon Bethune said March 12. **Fuel is the airline's second-largest expense after labor.** Spot prices for jet fuel for delivery in New York harbor rose 32 percent to 94.65 cents a gallon yesterday from September. The price of crude oil has climbed 85 percent to \$37 a barrel from under \$20 two years ago, Continental said. American Airlines, the world's largest carrier, and Delta Air Lines Inc., the third-biggest U.S. carrier, matched Continental's February 27 increase. All of those carriers rolled back the increase when Northwest Airlines Corp. declined to follow suit. AMR is evaluating the latest increase, said spokesman Tim Wagner. Northwest is reluctant to raise fares because of the growing presence of discount rivals, said Blaylock & Partners analyst Ray Neidl.

Source: http://quote.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=10000103&sid=aTiOqMZINJ8s&refer=news_index

14. *March 25, National Journal* — **Official outlines pursuit of 'smart' border, container plans. Technology improvements will help the United States protect its borders while still maintaining the country's sense of openness, a Department of Homeland Security official said** Thursday, March 25. "We're pursuing smart border initiatives," Robert Bonner, commissioner of the Customs and Border Protection Bureau (CBP), told the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee. "Rather than seeking to physically inspect 23 million containers each year, which would be tantamount to closing the borders and shutting our economy, [the bureau identifies] high-risk containers using state-of-the-art technologies." The bureau has requested about \$340 million in spending increases for fiscal 2005, including \$15 million for its Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism. The 5,900 companies participating in that initiative are offered an expedited process at U.S. ports if they cooperate with U.S. authorities via the partnership, Bonner said. **The goal is not to uncover mass amounts of dangerous cargo but to deter groups like the al Qaeda terrorist network from exploiting cargo containers,** he said.

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0304/032504td1.htm>

15. *March 25, Associated Press* — **Delay sought on computer-coded passports.** The Bush administration is seeking a two-year delay in a congressional requirement that 27 countries issue computer-coded passports for travel to the U.S. **Administration officials say the countries are not ready to switch to the new passports, raising concerns that the U.S. economy—particularly the tourism industry—could suffer serious damage if the Congress does not defer the current October 26 deadline.** Affected are "visa waiver" countries—22 European nations plus Australia, Brunei, Japan, New Zealand and Singapore. Citizens from these countries have not been required to obtain visas for travel to the U.S. But as part of a post-September 11 effort to enhance security, Congress required the governments of these countries to issue "biometric" passports by the fall deadline. The special passports would include fingerprint and iris identification features, which make the documents virtually impossible to counterfeit. Secretary of State Colin Powell and Department of Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge requested the delay in a letter to House Judiciary Committee Chairman James Sensenbrenner, (R-WI). Sensenbrenner said he has written a letter to U.S. ambassadors in each of the countries for an update on their ability to meet the deadline for biometric passports before the October deadline.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/politics/wire/sns-ap-us-passport.s.0.71759.story?coll=sns-ap-politics-headlines>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture Sector

16. *March 26, Agriculture Online* — **Gas prices hit farmers. Retail gas prices today hit a record high for the fourth consecutive day, according to a daily survey conducted by AAA. The timing is unfortunate for farmers as they start their spring planting activities.** House Agriculture Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte earlier this week sent a letter to President Bush, calling on him to reevaluate the US Department of Energy (DOE) policy on filling the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) to help lower prices at the pump. "With our economy on the rebound, it is critical that we not allow rising gasoline prices to have a negative impact on the recovery," Goodlatte said. "Also, **with the planting season around the corner, the record high gasoline prices will really hit America's farmers hard,**" he pointed out.

Source: http://www.agriculture.com/default.sph/AgNews.class?FNC=goDe tail_ANewsindex_html_51496_1

17. *March 25, OsterDowJones Commodity News* — **U.S. and Canada agree to lift limit on U.S. beef to Canada.** Negotiators have reached an agreement that will remove barriers that have been blocking most U.S. beef exports to Canada, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Undersecretary J.B. Penn. Penn said that it would likely be only "a matter of days" before the agreement is implemented and U.S. beef exports begin to benefit from the deal. **Even though it does not ban U.S. boneless beef from cattle under 30 months of age, Canada requires that USDA verify that the product was processed on dedicated lines, segregating it from any beef from older animals.** That requirement, USDA Chief Economist Keith Collins said recently, virtually halted U.S. beef exports to Canada. Penn would not say whether the segregation requirement will be dropped altogether or whether U.S. exporters will conform to the same requirements to which Canadian exporters are held. Regardless, Penn said "our industry will do the same as their industry."

Source: http://www.agprofessional.com/show_story.php?id=24237

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Food Sector

18. *March 25, Reuters* — **Study: food-poisoning parasite can evade drugs. A genetic analysis of a potentially deadly parasite that is a major cause of food poisoning has shed light on why the bug is so hard to treat, U.S. researchers reported** on Thursday, March 25. A team at the University of Minnesota has mapped the DNA of the *Cryptosporidium parvum* parasite, which can cause veterinary as well as human-health problems, and found it has a few tricks that help it evade drugs. "Despite intensive efforts over the past 20 years, there is currently no effective therapy for treating or preventing *C. parvum* infection in humans," the researchers

wrote. **Their study shows the parasite is missing many of the structures that current drug therapy targets. Without a target, the drugs are worthless.** "We now realize that many of the conventional anti-parasitic drugs that have been used in an attempt to treat infected individuals have failed because the biochemical targets of the drugs are absent in *C. parvum*," Mitchell Abrahamsen, who led the study, said. However, the researcher found some genetic weaknesses that could be exploited by drug developers. *Cryptosporidium* is spread through feces of infected hosts and causes sometimes severe diarrhea in humans and animals.

Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=594&ncid=594&e=13&u=/nm/20040325/hl_nm/science_cryptosporidium_dc

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Water Sector

19. *March 26, Denver Post* — **Water restrictions studied. Denver Water provided its first glimpse Thursday, March 25, of possible watering restrictions this summer: two or three assigned days a week to water landscapes, escalating surcharges, and street patrols.** The water board will make its decision, including whether to make restrictions mandatory or voluntary, next month, said Denver Water spokesperson Trina McGuire-Collier. The restrictions would take effect on May 1. **A key factor every year in deciding watering restrictions has been the April 1 snowpack measurement, which this year is deeply below normal after a drastically dry March.** Snowmelt in the spring and summer provides more than 80 percent of the water Coloradans use year-round. Water left in the reservoirs, pumped up by conservation efforts and other factors, is water that can be stretched out to help Denver Water's 1.2 million customers make it to the end of the drought, said Denver Water manager Chips Barry. **Reservoir levels will drive the decisions on restrictions more than the weather,** he said. Denver Water's reservoirs are currently 71 percent full, and historically have averaged 82 percent in late March, said Ed Pokorney, the utility's director of planning.

Source: <http://www.denverpost.com/Stories/0,1413,36~23447~2042179,00.html#>

20. *March 26, The Columbian (WA)* — **Small oil spill reported in the Columbia River. The Army Corps of Engineers reported a small oil spill at The Dalles Dam on Thursday, March 25, the fourth this year.** Workers at the dam spotted a sheen measuring about 20-by-20 feet just below the dam around 8:30 a.m. as crews were stopping and starting hydroelectric turbines for a routine inspection of trash racks on the upstream side. Debris typically collects on the steel bars, and the corps periodically shuts down turbines to better inspect the area. Corps spokesperson Matt Rabe said **officials suspect hydraulic oil accumulated on a turbine while it was shut down. The oil was then released when workers fired it up.** He said officials believe less than 2 gallons spilled into the river, although it could have been as much as 20 gallons.

Source: http://www.columbian.com/03262004/clark_co/129732.html

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Public Health Sector

21. *March 26, National Academies/National Research Council* — **National Academies report on EPA's particulate matter research. Particulate matter research conducted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other scientists in recent years has led to a better understanding of the health effects caused by the tiny airborne particles,** says a new report from the National Academies' National Research Council. However, the committee that wrote the report said that even as EPA implements strategies to control particulate matter in the near term, it should — in concert with other agencies — continue research in order to reduce uncertainties further and inform long-term decisions. Particulate matter consists of diverse substances such as dust, smoke, soot, and other small particles emitted by cars and trucks, forest fires, electric power plants, and other sources. **The report calls for a continued systematic approach to studying the large variety of possible relationships between particulate matter and health effects.** Report: http://books.nap.edu/catalog/10957.html?onpi_newsdoc03242004
Source: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2004/03/040325072825.htm>

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Government Sector

22. *March 29, The Washington Times* — **FBI up for private screens.** The FBI and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) are developing a database that will allow private companies to submit lists of individuals to be screened for a connection to terrorism, the FBI Terrorist Screening Center Director Donna A. Bucella told legislators Thursday, March 25. **The database "will eventually allow private-sector entities, such as operators of critical infrastructure facilities or organizers of large events, to submit a list of persons associated with those events to the U.S. government to be screened for any nexus to terrorism,"** Bucella said at a joint hearing of the House Judiciary and Homeland Security subcommittees. The screening center oversees the master database of known and suspected terrorists, which became operational in December. That database, created by the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security, was developed to ensure investigators, screeners and agents work off a unified set of antiterrorist information.
Source: <http://www.washtimes.com/national/20040326-124121-1245r.htm>
23. *March 25, InformationWeek* — **Department Homeland Security CIO outlines priorities.** Department of Homeland Security CIO Steven Cooper highlighted several priorities for his organization over the next 12 months and addressed the challenges he faces in meeting those objectives at the Federal Office Systems Expo in Washington last week. **The most pressing of these priorities are information sharing, IT infrastructure integration, and data security.** "We are fighting a real war," Cooper said Wednesday, March 24. "There are people who want us dead. Speed is important." Information sharing within the federal government, as well as with states, local municipalities, Native American tribes, and academia is one of Cooper's top priorities. The key to successful information sharing is IT infrastructure integration, another of Cooper's priorities. **By December, the department plans to consolidate its six WANs down to one network for both classified and unclassified information.** Another priority is information security, which requires biometric and smart-card technology rather than reliance on passwords alone, Cooper said.
Source: <http://www.informationweek.com/story/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=18402622>

Emergency Services Sector

24. *March 24, Government Computer News* — **Wireless networking the focus of public safety communication.** Wireless networking is rapidly gaining importance in public safety communications, according to local government speakers at a session on wireless networking at the Federal Office Systems Expo in Washington last week. Montgomery County, MD, has 44 dedicated 802.11b wireless hot spots to public safety mobile users, said Barbara Garrard of the county's Technology Services Department. Joe Ross of the District of Columbia's Office of the Chief Technology Officer, talked about the importance of a dedicated public safety spectrum. **The District is part of a growing coalition of state and local governments that is asking Congress and the Federal Communications Commission to allocate at an additional 10 MHz of spectrum in the 700 MHz band for public safety use.** Public safety needs the additional 10 MHz for wide-area mobile applications such as video and geographic information system data. The events of Sept. 11 showed the importance of a cohesive public safety communication network, Ross said. Even in an ice storm, if the lines come down, public safety organizations still need to communicate.

Source: http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/25401-1.html

Information and Telecommunications Sector

25. *March 26, eWEEK* — **New spawn of Bagle worm unleashed.** Yet another version of the Bagle worm is on the loose and is already causing trouble in parts of Europe. Bagle.U appeared early Friday, March 26, and has begun spreading quickly, even though it contains none of the social engineering tricks that Bagle's author has used to help previous versions succeed. **This variant arrives in an e-mail with a blank subject line and no body text.** The sending address, as always, is spoofed, and the name of the infected executable attachment is completely random. After execution, the worm mails itself to all of the addresses in the infected machine's address book. **Bagle.U does include a backdoor component that listens on TCP port 4751 and connects to a Web server in a German domain, www.werde.de,** according to Network Associates Inc. Once it establishes a connection with the remote server, the worm generates a unique ID number for each specific infected machine and sends that number and the number of the port on which it is listening to the server. Bagle.U is set to expire on January 1, 2005.

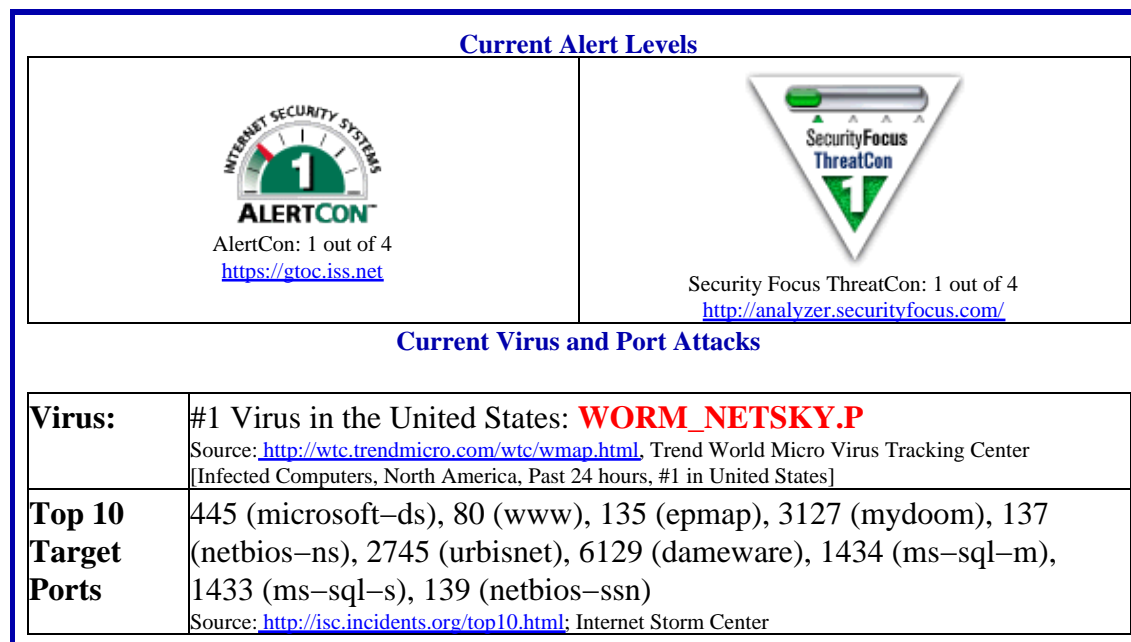
Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0.1759.1554957.00.asp>

26. *March 26, Reuters* — **Bush wants cheap high-speed Internet access for all by 2007.** President Bush on Friday, March 26, urged that affordable high-speed Internet access known as broadband be available to all Americans by 2007. Telephone and cable television companies have been competing fiercely to sign up customers to high-speed Internet service, which is seen as a lucrative market. There is already a fund that subsidizes telephone service in rural areas and for those who cannot afford it. Policymakers have debated whether the Universal Service Fund should also subsidize Internet access to American homes. They have also been

debating what regulations should apply to broadband services. Telephone companies that dominate a market have to share their networks with rivals for telephone service and there have been extensive debates about whether those rules should apply to broadband. Cable companies do not presently have to share their networks with rivals but some allow subscribers to have an alternative Internet service provider. There were about 20.6 million homes and small businesses that subscribe to high-speed Internet as of June 2003, according to the Federal Communications Commission.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2004/TECH/internet/03/26/bush.broadband.d.c.reut/index.html>

Internet Alert Dashboard



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General Sector

27. *March 29, The Washington Times* — **Hamas linked to area housing. The terrorist organization Hamas invested millions of dollars during the past decade in real-estate projects nationwide as part of a scheme to raise cash to fund acts of terrorism**, records show. The investments—including the construction of hundreds of new homes, including many in Oxon Hill, MD—were handled through BMI Inc., a defunct Secaucus, NJ, investment firm founded by Soliman S. Biheiri, an Egyptian and Hamas supporter, according to a newly released sentencing declaration by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). One of the principle BMI investors in the Oxon Hill project was Mousa Mohammad Abu Marzook. It was a U.S. investigation into Marzook's financial activities in this country that led to Biheiri, BMI and Ptech, a Boston-based computer software firm raided by customs agents in December 2002, authorities said. They said Biheiri and Yasin Qadi, a key BMI investor, were the primary Ptech financiers. **Biheiri was a key figure in a scheme using private companies and interrelated Islamic charities operating out of business fronts in Herndon and Falls Church, VA, to divert millions of dollars to global terrorists, including Hamas and al**

Qaeda. Hamas was designated by the State Department as a terrorist organization in 1991. Much of its fund raising takes place in the U.S.

Source: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/national/20040326-121658-5191 r.htm>

28. *March 25, Associated Press* — **Mueller says FBI concerned about terrorism at political conventions, Olympics.** Emboldened by their deadly success in Spain, terrorists could attempt to influence the U.S. election and shock the world by launching attacks during this year's presidential nominating conventions or at the Olympics in Greece, FBI Director Robert Mueller said Thursday, March 25. Mueller said that **Islamic extremists are changing tactics to focus on recruitment of local sympathizers less likely to arouse suspicion than outsiders. And terrorist groups may well move away from fortified targets, such as airports and government buildings, he said.** "I do believe that when we enhance our security, harden targets, terrorists look for other targets that are soft targets," Mueller said. When new security measures are taken, he said, "the terrorists are thinking about ways to circumvent them." The March 11 train bombings in Madrid that killed 190 were a factor in the ouster of Spain's government. **"In the wake of what happened in Madrid, we have to be concerned about the possibility of terrorists attempting to influence elections in the United States by committing a terrorist act,"** Mueller said. Emerging terror hotspots include Indonesia, southeast Asia, the Philippines, North Africa, the Horn of Africa and Europe.

Source: <http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/news/archive/2004/03/25/sports1704EST0303.DTL>

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DHS/IAIP Products &Contact Information

The Department of Homeland Security's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability entity. The IAIP provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures. By visiting the IAIP web-site (<http://www.nipc.gov>), one can quickly access any of the following DHS/IAIP products:

[DHS/IAIP Warnings](#) – DHS/IAIP Assesments, Advisories, and Alerts: DHS/IAIP produces three levels of infrastructure warnings. Collectively, these threat warning products will be based on material that is significant, credible, timely, and that address cyber and/or infrastructure dimensions with possibly significant impact.

[DHS/IAIP Publications](#) – DHS/IAIP Daily Reports, CyberNotes, Information Bulletins, and other publications

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To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282–9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US–CERT at info@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.uscert.gov.

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